REMARKS

Claims 21, 38, 49, and 55 have been amended to better define the invention and to correct a typographic error. The remaining claims are unchanged.

In addition, the specification has been amended to correct a few obvious errors. These corrections do not involve new matter.

In view of the above corrections, early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA Registration No. 33,805

Date: November 3, 2003

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

NWB:S:\Producer\beu\Client Folders\force\pre.wpd